

**Friis, John**

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**From:** MacAllister, Allan R SIK [AMacAllister@SIKORSKY.COM]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2009 8:02 PM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Cc:** Lauren E. MacAllister  
**Subject:** HB6666,Section 5

To whom it concerns,

I am disappointed to hear that there is a chance that the ECA program is at risk of being shut down. My daughter, Lauren, is a recent (2007) graduate of the dance program at ECA. It was the most fantastic educational experience of her life. It has helped her to formulate and continue her lifelong ambition of being a professional dancer and dance teacher. She is currently attending college to pursue these goals. Susan Matheke was a vital part of this experience. She provided guidance and a letter of recommendation to help Lauren get acceptance into college. Because of her experience, I would like to make the following comments:

The bill that would prevent parents from paying ECA tuition should be rejected. The program is invaluable and if local districts can't pay due to budget constraints, parents should be able to pay to give their child(ren) a valuable experience.

Also, I would encourage support of legislation that exempts the faculty at ECA from obtaining a teaching certificate. These professionals are more than qualified, but many do not have the time to take on the course load required to obtain the certificate. It would be a shame for the ECA program to shut down for this reason.

Thank you for your time,

**Al MacAllister**

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3/16/2009